

Name: _____ Section: _____ Date: _____

ROMAN RESEARCH PAPER

INTRODUCTION

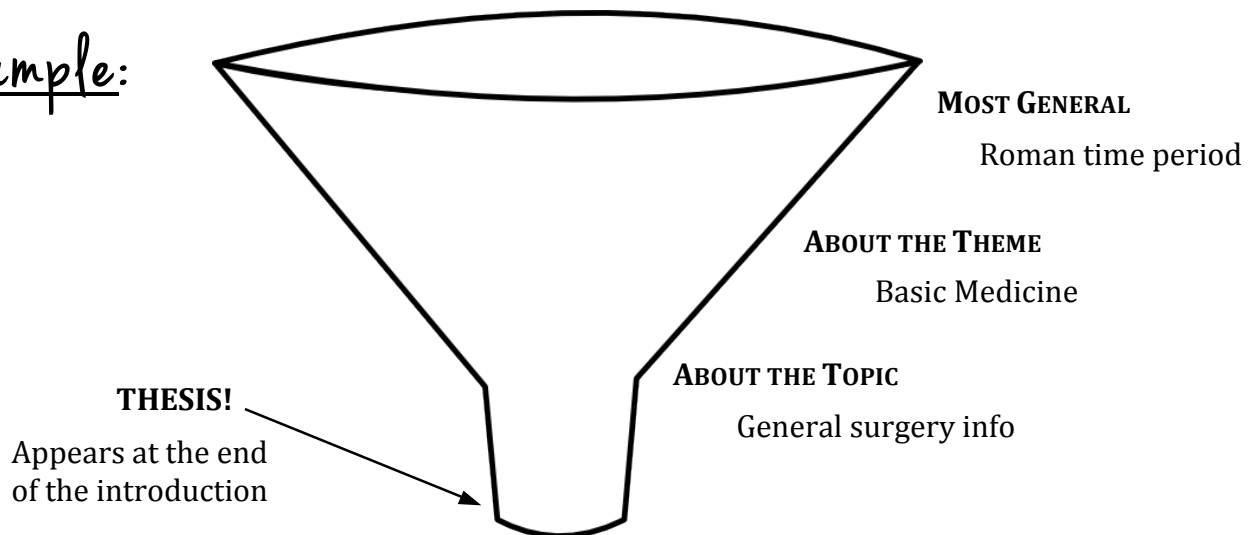
The **introduction**, or opening paragraph, prepares the audience for reading your essay. It “hooks” the reader’s interest, provides key background information for context, and presents your main idea – the point of the whole paper.

1. What may seem odd about introductions is that it needs to be planned backward. Start with **the point** of your paper. This is your thesis statement. Anyone who reads this sentence should know what your paper is about. Remember, you cannot use personal pronouns or refer to the paper. It is better to say something about your topic, like “The ancient Romans combined entertainment and competition in their chariot races.”

What is your thesis or point? _____

2. Next, think about what **background information** someone needs to know in order to understand your point. This information should be presented from most general to most specific and eventually your point. Think of it like a funnel. The most general information that can go into almost everyone’s paper is at the top. As you get more into the paragraph, the information relates more closely to your topic. The trick is not to use your specific evidence just yet. You want your reader to have something to keep them reading.

Example:



What **basic** information should your reader have to understand your thesis?

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3. Last, think about how you can grab your reader's attention. You could start your paper with one of the following "**hooks**":

- a quotation
- a brief story from history
- a striking statistic
- an interesting or shocking fact
- a question (the only place you should use them)

You can also just start writing. If your language is interesting and your topic is compelling, it should hold the reader's attention. You are more likely to do this if you think about your use of adjectives, verbs, and adverbs. Adjectives will paint a picture for your reader and will improve your nouns. Verbs give action and excitement. Adverbs add detail to your verbs. Using these will help your introduction remain interesting.

When you write your introduction, you start with your hook (if you have one), then provide your background information from most general to most specific. Your main point should be the last sentence in the introduction.

Ivan's Introduction:

On July 18, 1863, at the height of the American Civil War, the men of the African-American Massachusetts 54th Infantry attacked a South Carolina earthwork known as Fort Wagner or Battery Wagoner. When the fighting was done, nearly half of those men lay dead in what was by all accounts a massacre, an overwhelming victory for the Confederacy. However, the African-American soldiers of the 54th had fought as free men. Although many of these Yankee soldiers lost their lives in the charge, and although the Confederacy technically won the battle, the charge of the Massachusetts 54th was a moral, if not a military, victory for the North and for the antislavery movement.

1. Underline Ivan's main point.

2. What background information did Ivan give that made understanding his point easier?

3. Were you interested to read past the first sentence? Why or why not?
